

Message Text

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21

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04

ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAL-01 /190 W

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3028

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USUN NEW YORK 037

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 996

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CA

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE: VANCOUVER MEDIA REACTION

1. VANCOUVER SUN LEAD EDITORIAL OF SEPTEMBER 23, "NEPTUNE S TINDERBOX", FINDS PLENTY OF FRESH EVIDENCE OF "DISTRUST" IN LOS ADJOURNMENT "IN A STATE OF CONTENTIOUS DEADLOCK". MAIN THRUST OF EDITORIAL IS THAT LOS SESSION WAS "MEMORABLE" FOR CANADA BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATED THAT CANADA IS ON A "COLLISION COURSE" WITH REGARD TO THE "EXPLOSIVE QUESTION" OF THE MINING OF SEABED MINERAL DEPOSITS AND NICKEL IN PARTICULAR. "THREATENED IN VARYING DEGREES ARE OUR RESOURCE-PRODUCT EARNINGS, THEREFORE OUR OVER-ALL ECONOMY, AND OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON ONE HAND, THE THIRD WORLD ON THE OTHER."

2. SUN EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUE OF A UN-SUPERVISED INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY BETWEEN THE THIRD WORLD AND THE DEVELOPED NATIONS ARE "AT PRESENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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DIM" AND THAT THE PROSPECT (REPORTEDLY TOUTED BY THE U.S.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT) OF A TRANSFORMATION OF THE U.S. FROM
A MAJOR IMPORTER OF NICKEL AND COPPER INTO AN IMPORTANT EXPORTER
AS A RESULT OF SEABED MINING WOULD BE "ECONOMICALLY DISASTROUS"
FOR CANADA'S NICKEL INDUSTRY.

3. IN CLOSING, EDITORIAL STATES THAT UNLESS AN "UNLIKELY"
BREAKTHROUGH IS ACHIEVED BEFORE THE CONFERENCE RESUMES NEXT
MAY, "IT SEEMS PROBABLE THE VAST NO-MAN'S WATERS OF NEPTUNE'S
DOMAIN WILL GENERATE A NEW PHASE OF INTERNATIONAL DISCORD AND
CONFRONTATION".

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